towards serving the needs of three key sectors, namely, Defence, Telecommunications and Nuclear Power. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Department of Telecommunication (DOT) also have their public sector undertakings (PSUs) and ECIL has to depend on its share of the Defence & DOT business. The volume of supplies for nuclear power stations has declined since ECIL's business in this area consists mainly of supplying control & instrumentation equipment for the new power plants of the Nuclear Power Corporation India Ltd. (NPCIL) and no new nuclear power station was taken up by the NPCIL during the VIII Plan period. The cumulative effect of these factors was that ECIL's turnover did not show a significant growth in 1995-96 and thereafter, and it could earn profits only in 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(c) In spite of the odds faced by it the Company is making all efforts to increase its order book and execution during 1998-99 and expects to be able to obtain the necessary orders to meet the current year's sales target. Dialogues have been started at high levels with the MOD & DOT to ensure a fair share of business from these sectors. Efforts are also underway to improve the availability of working capital and ensure utilisation of Government budgetary support to fund capital investments which are expected to lead to better margins in future.

Achievements of N.F.C.

511. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad has not been able to achieve the production targets during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The production targets of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) for fuel etc. needed for the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) and the Boiling Water Reactors (BWR) are fixed in accordance with the projections made by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). These targets are at times modified during the year after reviewing the situation. The actual requirement of NPCIL for fuel has been fully met by NFC upto 1997-98 though the targets *per se* for some individual items have not been achieved. The reasons for the shortfall were mainly the break-down of the sintering furnace and some problems relating to recovery.

(c) The reasons for the shortfall in production have been fully analysed and corrective action has been taken for improving the sinterability of uranium oxide powder and repairing the sintering furnace.

Serving of Beef in IGAEC Hostel at Kalpakkam

512. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that beef is served at the hostel of Indira Gandhi Atomic Energy Centre at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu regularly;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received in this regard and what action has been taken against the persons responsible for this irreligious act; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that such practice is not repeated any where in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.